(b) The Planning Commission had provided an outlay of Rs. 1,24,526.41 crore in respect of Power Sector during the 9th Plan. This includes Rs. 71,227 crore in the State Sector and Rs. 53,299.41 crore in the Central Sector.

(c) The Working Group on Power for the 10th Plan has estimated a feasible capacity addition of 46,939 MW during the Tenth Plan period.

(d) For the 10th Five Year Plan, the Government has constituted an intensive monitoring process through the Empowered Committee which is chaired by Secretary (Power). The projects to be commissioned in the Tenth Plan have been identified and advance action has been initiated so as to reduce the gestation period.

Allocation of funds for rural electrification programme in Assam

718. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated and sanctioned as well as released for rural electrification programme in the State of Assam during the last three years;

(b) whether Government have fixed any target in this respect; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) Details of funds disbursed by Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) and by the Government of India (M/o Finance) for rural electrification programme in Assam during the last three years are as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Released by the M/o Finance	Released by REC	Total
1998-99	—	82	82
1999-2000	—	296	296
2000-2001	2652	—	2652

During 2001-02, the M/o Finance have released Rs. 3005.50 lakhs as the first instalment under Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY), Rs. 2652 lakhs under Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) and Rs. 68.00 lakhs under Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources.

(b) and (c) According to Assam State Electricity Board (ASEB), the funds have been sanctioned for completion of the following rural electrification programme:

(i) Intensive electrification of 912 villages already electrified.

(ii) Electrification of 493 virgin villages, intensification of 189 SC/ST villages.

(iii) Electrification of 20 tribal villages, out of which 11 villages are nearing completion.

ASEB have stated that for implementing the rural electrification programme, materials have already been procured and works are in progress.

ASEB have further stated that out of 24,685 total inhabited villages in Assam (1991 census), 19,019 villages have already been electrified leaving a balance of 5666 un-electrified villages. ASEB have stated that all these un-electrified villages are targeted to be completed by the end of 10th Plan period.

Installation of remote meters

†719. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to install remote meters, on the pattern of telephones, to check the losses suffered by the State Electricity Boards on account of electricity theft;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the cost of installing a remote meter; and

(c) the steps Government are going to take to bring about the qualitative improvement in electricity and to prevent power cuts and to make improvement of various equipments including transformers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The Government of India has suggested various measures for reduction of T&D losses including the losses on account of electricity theft and the State Electricity Boards/Utilities have been advised to make use of modern technologies in metering including remote metering for accurate assessment and recording of electricity consumption.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.